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7  
 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 9 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10  
 11 SONA DIMIRDJIAN,  
 12 Plaintiff,  
 13 vs.  
 14 BANK OF AMERICA and DOES 1-10,  
 15 Defendants.

Case No. 5:17-CV-01132-JGB (SPx)

**STIPULATED PROTECTIVE  
 ORDER**

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STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

1. A. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the Court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles. The parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 12.3, below, that this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to file confidential information under seal; Civil Local Rule 79-5 sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

B. GOOD CAUSE STATEMENT

This action is likely to involve customer and financial information and other valuable proprietary information, as well as individuals' private information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecution of this action is warranted. Such confidential and proprietary materials and information consist of, among other things, confidential business or financial information, information regarding confidential business practices, or other confidential commercial information (including information implicating privacy rights of third parties), information otherwise generally unavailable to the public, or which may be privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure under state or federal statutes, court rules, case decisions, or common law. Accordingly, to expedite the flow of information, to facilitate the prompt resolution of disputes over confidentiality of discovery materials, to adequately protect information the parties are entitled to keep confidential, to ensure that the parties are permitted reasonable

1 necessary uses of such material in preparation for and in the conduct of trial, to  
2 address their handling at the end of the litigation, and serve the ends of justice, a  
3 protective order for such information is justified in this matter. It is the intent of the  
4 parties that information will not be designated as confidential for tactical reasons and  
5 that nothing be so designated without a good faith belief that it has been maintained  
6 in a confidential, non-public manner, and there is good cause why it should not be  
7 part of the public record of this case.

8 2. DEFINITIONS

9 2.1 Action: this pending federal law suit.

10 2.2 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation  
11 of information or items under this Order.

12 2.3 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of  
13 how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for  
14 protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in the  
15 Good Cause Statement.

16 2.4 Counsel: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as  
17 their support staff).

18 2.5 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or  
19 items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as  
20 “CONFIDENTIAL.”

21 2.6 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless of  
22 the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including,  
23 among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or  
24 generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

25 2.7 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter  
26 pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as  
27 an expert witness or as a consultant in this Action.

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1           2.8    House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this Action.  
2 House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside  
3 counsel.

4           2.9    Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or  
5 other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

6           2.10   Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a party  
7 to this Action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this Action and have  
8 appeared in this Action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm which  
9 has appeared on behalf of that party, and includes support staff.

10          2.11   Party: any party to this Action, including all of its officers, directors,  
11 employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their  
12 support staffs).

13          2.12   Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or  
14 Discovery Material in this Action.

15          2.13   Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation support  
16 services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or  
17 demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium)  
18 and their employees and subcontractors.

19          2.14   Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is  
20 designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

21          2.15   Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material  
22 from a Producing Party.

23    3.    SCOPE

24           The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only  
25 Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or  
26 extracted from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or  
27 compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or  
28 presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.

1 Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by the orders of the  
2 trial judge. This Order does not govern the use of Protected Material at trial.

3 4. DURATION

4 Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations  
5 imposed by this Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees  
6 otherwise in writing or a court order otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be  
7 deemed to be the later of (1) dismissal of all claims and defenses in this Action, with  
8 or without prejudice; and (2) final judgment herein after the completion and  
9 exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of this Action,  
10 including the time limits for filing any motions or applications for extension of time  
11 pursuant to applicable law.

12 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

13 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection.

14 Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under  
15 this Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that  
16 qualifies under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party must designate for  
17 protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written  
18 communications that qualify so that other portions of the material, documents, items,  
19 or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably  
20 within the ambit of this Order.

21 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations  
22 that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper  
23 purpose (*e.g.*, to unnecessarily encumber the case development process or to impose  
24 unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Designating  
25 Party to sanctions.

26 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it  
27 designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must  
28 promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the inapplicable designation.

1           5.2    Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in  
2 this Order (*see, e.g.*, second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise  
3 stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection  
4 under this Order must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or  
5 produced.

6           Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

7           (a)    for information in documentary form (*e.g.*, paper or electronic  
8 documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial  
9 proceedings), that the Producing Party affix at a minimum, the legend  
10 “CONFIDENTIAL” (hereinafter “CONFIDENTIAL legend”), to each page that  
11 contains protected material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page  
12 qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected  
13 portion(s) (*e.g.*, by making appropriate markings in the margins).

14           A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents available for inspection  
15 need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated  
16 which documents it would like copied and produced. During the inspection and  
17 before the designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be  
18 deemed “CONFIDENTIAL.” After the inspecting Party has identified the documents  
19 it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine which documents,  
20 or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then, before producing  
21 the specified documents, the Producing Party must affix the “CONFIDENTIAL  
22 legend” to each page that contains Protected Material. If only a portion or portions  
23 of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must  
24 clearly identify the protected portion(s) (*e.g.*, by making appropriate markings in the  
25 margins).

26           (b)    for testimony given in depositions that the Designating Party  
27 identify the Disclosure or Discovery Material on the record, before the close of the  
28 deposition all protected testimony.

1 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary  
2 and for any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place  
3 on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information is stored the  
4 legend “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information warrants  
5 protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected  
6 portion(s).

7 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent  
8 failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the  
9 Designating Party’s right to secure protection under this Order for such material.  
10 Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable  
11 efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this  
12 Order.

13 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

14 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a  
15 designation of confidentiality at any time that is consistent with the Court’s  
16 Scheduling Order.

17 6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute  
18 resolution process under Local Rule 37.1 et seq.

19 6.3 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on  
20 the Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper  
21 purpose (*e.g.*, to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other  
22 parties) may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating  
23 Party has waived or withdrawn the confidentiality designation, all parties shall  
24 continue to afford the material in question the level of protection to which it is  
25 entitled under the Producing Party’s designation until the Court rules on the  
26 challenge.

1     7.     ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

2             7.1     Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is  
3 disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this  
4 Action only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this Action. Such  
5 Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the  
6 conditions described in this Order. When the Action has been terminated, a  
7 Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below (FINAL  
8 DISPOSITION).

9             Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a  
10 location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons  
11 authorized under this Order.

12             7.2     Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless  
13 otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a  
14 Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated  
15 “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

16                     (a)     the Receiving Party’s Outside Counsel of Record in this Action,  
17 as well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably  
18 necessary to disclose the information for this Action;

19                     (b)     the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel)  
20 of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action;

21                     (c)     Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom  
22 disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the  
23 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

24                     (d)     the court and its personnel;

25                     (e)     court reporters and their staff;

26                     (f)     professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and  
27 Professional Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and  
28 who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

1 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information  
2 or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

3 (h) during their depositions, witnesses ,and attorneys for witnesses,  
4 in the Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided: (1) the deposing  
5 party requests that the witness sign the form attached as Exhibit 1 hereto; and (2)  
6 they will not be permitted to keep any confidential information unless they sign the  
7 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise  
8 agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed  
9 deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material may be  
10 separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as  
11 permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order; and

12 (i) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel,  
13 mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions.

14 8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN  
15 OTHER LITIGATION

16 If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation  
17 that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this Action as  
18 “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

19 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such  
20 notification shall include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

21 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or  
22 order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the  
23 subpoena or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include  
24 a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order; and

25 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be  
26 pursued by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

27 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with  
28 the subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this

1 action as “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which the  
2 subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s  
3 permission. The Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking  
4 protection in that court of its confidential material and nothing in these provisions  
5 should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this Action to  
6 disobey a lawful directive from another court.

7 9. A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE  
8 PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION

9 The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a Non-Party  
10 in this Action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information produced by  
11 Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the remedies and relief  
12 provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be construed as  
13 prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

14 In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to produce a  
15 Non-Party’s confidential information in its possession, and the Party is subject to an  
16 agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party’s confidential  
17 information, then the Party shall:

18 (a) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-  
19 Party that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality  
20 agreement with a Non-Party;

21 (b) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated  
22 Protective Order in this Action, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably  
23 specific description of the information requested; and make the information  
24 requested available for inspection by the Non-Party, if requested.

25 (c) If the Non-Party fails to seek a protective order from this court  
26 within 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving  
27 Party may produce the Non-Party’s confidential information responsive to the  
28 discovery request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving

1 Party shall not produce any information in its possession or control that is subject to  
2 the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the court.  
3 Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense  
4 of seeking protection in this court of its Protected Material.

5 10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

6 If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed  
7 Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this  
8 Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in  
9 writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts  
10 to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or  
11 persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order,  
12 and (d) request such person or persons to execute the “Acknowledgment and  
13 Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

14 11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE  
15 PROTECTED MATERIAL

16 When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain  
17 inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection,  
18 the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil  
19 Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure  
20 may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for production without prior  
21 privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and (e), insofar as the  
22 parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a communication or  
23 information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work product protection, the  
24 parties may incorporate their agreement in the stipulated protective order submitted  
25 to the court.

26 12. MISCELLANEOUS

27 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any  
28 person to seek its modification by the Court in the future.

1           12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this  
2 Protective Order no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to  
3 disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in this  
4 Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on any  
5 ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.

6           12.3 Filing Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any  
7 Protected Material must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5. Protected Material may  
8 only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the  
9 specific Protected Material at issue. If a Party's request to file Protected Material  
10 under seal is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the information  
11 in the public record unless otherwise instructed by the court.

12   13.   FINAL DISPOSITION

13           After the final disposition of this Action, as defined in paragraph 4, within 60  
14 days of a written request by the Designating Party, each Receiving Party must return  
15 all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As used in  
16 this subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts, compilations,  
17 summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected  
18 Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving  
19 Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same  
20 person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies  
21 (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was returned or  
22 destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any copies,  
23 abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or capturing any  
24 of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to  
25 retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing  
26 transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert  
27 reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such  
28 materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival copies that contain or

1 constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Protective Order as set forth in  
2 Section 4 (DURATION).

3 14. Any violation of this Order may be punished by any and all appropriate  
4 measures including, without limitation, contempt proceedings and/or monetary  
5 sanctions.

6 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH PLAINTIFF, *IN PRO SE*, AND COUNSEL  
7 OF RECORD FOR DEFENDANTS.

8 DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

9  
10 \_\_\_\_\_  
11 Plaintiff

12 DATED: October 27, 2017

13  
14 /s/ Vandana Kapur  
15 Attorneys for Defendants

16 FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, IT IS SO ORDERED.

17  
18 DATED: November 1, 2017

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20 \_\_\_\_\_  
21 HON. SHERI PYM  
22 United States Magistrate Judge  
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1 **EXHIBIT A**

2 **ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND**

3 I, \_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full name], of  
4 \_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of  
5 perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order  
6 that was issued by the United States District Court for the Central District of  
7 California on [date] in the case of *Sona Dimirdjian v. Bank of America, et. al.* [Case  
8 No. 5:17-CV-01132–JGB (SPx)]. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the  
9 terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that  
10 failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of  
11 contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information  
12 or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity  
13 except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

14 I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court  
15 for the Central District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this  
16 Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after  
17 termination of this action. I hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_ [print or  
18 type full name] of \_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full address and  
19 telephone number] as my California agent for service of process in connection with  
20 this action or any proceedings related to enforcement of this Stipulated Protective  
21 Order.

22 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

23 City and State where sworn and signed: \_\_\_\_\_

24 Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

25 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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